1. In the space below, describe the stasis at the beginning of Wedding Band. In other words, “Where are we?” “When is it (time, day, and year)?” “Who are the people involved?” “What is the dramatic situation in which the characters find themselves as the play unfolds?”

**The setting of the play is during the summer of World War I 1918 in South Carolina on a Saturday. The scenery is Fanny’s land, mainly in the backyard of the compound; Teeta, Mattie’s daughter, had just lost her mother’s last quarter, and she is trying to find it.**

2. What is the intrusion that causes the stasis to be broken and the dramatic action to develop, often at an increasingly rapid pace, to the end of the play? NOTE: Arguments might be made for several different points where stasis is broken. Be prepared to defend your point of view, if different from other students.

**The intrusion takes place when Herman faints within Julia’s homes, and they (the compound) must figure out what to do with him without anyone getting in trouble with the law enforcements, due to interracial relationships being illegal.**

3. Why do the events of the play take place now and place? In other words, what is the unique factor which is out of the ordinary that causes a turn of events to take place?

**The unique factor would be that Herman has the influenza and is deathly ill, therefore his mother and sister must come to Julia’s home which leads to a confrontation, and threatens the livelihood of all those who live at the compound.**

4. State the dramatic questions that must be answered by the end of the play? (Ordinarily, the dramatic question shares a close connection with the intrusion.)

**Will Herman live, will this end with Julia and Herman running away together despite their racial differences, and/or will either or both end up in jail for defying the law?**

5. Use Julia to answer the questions concerning character. Ball says, a character is revealed by what he/she does, that is the dramatic actions that are taken by that character. Examine what the character wants (NOTE: In Wedding Band, the wants of Julia are in flux. They change as the play progresses). The wants of a character often encounter obstacles that get in the way of achieving those wants. Ball says there are 4 kinds of obstacles that frustrate the wants of a character. They are: a. Me against myself, b. Me against another individual or individuals, c. Me against society (that is law, social norms, etc.) and, d. Me against fate, the universe, natural forces, God or the gods. In answering these questions be sure to point to the obstacles that demonstrate these obstacles in the play.

a. Julia is going against herself because she has pride in herself as a “negro” and the fact that she hates white people, yet is having a relationship with one, which to many is going against her people and the law.

**b. Julia is going against Herman's mother because his mot.er, even though a minority herself, sense she is German is a racist and hates black people, their she is against the relationship between Herman and Julia, hates black people and does not want her son to marry Julia. This hatred causes Julia to reflect the same feelings, and hate white people even more; in addition, causing a stain between her and Herman.**

**c. Julia is going against society by being in a relationship with someone of a white complexion, someone who can be deemed as white, which is taboo and illegal in the south.**

**d. Julia is going fate because she will not give up Herman and dreams of them running away together, however no matter what happens, even if Herman didn’t die, they would still face discrimination wherever they would decide to go.**

6. The most important information in most plays takes place during theatrical moments. Identify the most theatrical moments in Wedding Band.

**The most theatrical moment in the play was when Julia and Herman's mother were fighting and throwing insults at one another. This showed many levels of bigotry and diversity, even though they are both minorities they are not viewed as equals; in addition, the life at Herman held in the balance. Julia must question whether her love for Herman was worth it, and the mom has to question whether she should just let him die.**

7. Provide at least three examples of images in Wedding Band. How does the title of the play help us understand the images in the play? (Remember Ball says that, “An image is the use of something we know that tells us something we don’t know.” He goes on to say that images invoke and expand, rather than define and limit.”)

**The frantically and desperately searching for a quarter showed how in certain socio-economic classes, every cent literally counts, how a loss of quarter could be detrimental. The wedding band that was given to Julia by Herman signified them trying to fight fate, how they were trying to find loopholes that would allow them to be together, a motif of their relationship hidden like the ring underneath her dress. Another image is the boat that would have taken them to New York which Julia describes to him at the end of his life; as he is dying she is describing how they would have looked leaving together to be wed, a happy image, yet one that will never be achieved, a fantasy, a freedom they never really had the chance to experience.**

8. Ordinarily, there are many themes in most plays. List the themes in Wedding Band.

**Theme: importance of money, the law that are restricting relationships, type of love (those that are allowed and those that are frowned upon, and complexity within racism.**

9. Most American plays have something to do with family and/or family relationships. What does family have to do with the dramatic action in Wedding Band? Perhaps you might argue for several different kinds of family in this particular play. What do you think?

**Julia seems to have no family other than Herman, that is until he dies, anyone she has ever encountered has shied away from her due to her relationship with a white man. However, as Herman is dying, and Julia’s future doesn’t seem bright, Mattie and the compound decide to come together to become her family, showing that sometimes a bond over struggles can bring people together. I believe family is what you make it, and it usually comes together at the hardest of times.**